

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
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R 242122Z JUL 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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AMEMBASSY SANA
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USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 174908

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 24:

Q. CONGRESSMAN ASPIN COMPLAINED YESTERDAY ABOUT ARMS
SHIPMENTS TO LIBYA AND SYRIA, ABOUT FOUR MILLION DOLLARS'
WORTH -- MUNITIONS ARMS SHIPMENTS -- LAST YEAR, AND SAID
THEY OUGHT TO BE STOPPED AND HE DIDN'T SEE WHY WE HAD TO
SUPPORT THOSE RADICAL REGIMES. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON
THAT?

A. LET ME GIVE YOU WHAT INFORMATION I HAVE ON THIS, AND IT
IS TWO SEPARATE TRANSACTIONS.

FIRST, AS FAR AS THE SALES TO SYRIA, WHAT WE ARE TALKING
ABOUT ARE THE SALES OF RADIOS TO SYRIA. THERE IS NO SUPPLY
OF LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT PERMITTED AT THIS TIME. THESE
TRANSACTIONS WERE APPROVED IN 1974 BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT
OF THE MIDDLE EAST REASSESSMENT. THESE SALES CONSISTED OF

THE FOLLOWING: 9 RADIO TRANSCEIVERS AND SPARES WERE SUP-
PLIED TO THE SYRIAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, AND 25 WERE
SUPPLIED TO THE SYRIAN MINISTRY OF CUSTOMS.

IN PART, APPROVAL OF THESE SALES WAS AUTHORIZED BECAUSE OF
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CONTINUING SYRIAN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT IN NARCOTICS CONTROL.

THE THIRD GROUP WERE 100 RADIO TRANSCEIVERS WHICH WERE
SUPPLIED TO THE SYRIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. ALL OF THESE
ITEMS ARE NON-LETHAL, AS I SAID. THERE HAS BEEN A CON-
TINUING IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-SYRIAN RELATIONS, WHICH SUG-
GESTED THAT THE SALE OF A CERTAIN TYPE OF NON-LETHAL
EQUIPMENT -- SUCH AS THE RADIOS -- WAS JUSTIFIED.

Q. WHAT'S THE DOLLAR VALUE?

A. THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE RADIOS FOR THE MINISTRY OF

JUSTICE WAS ABOUT \$108,000; THOSE TO CUSTOMS, ABOUT 223.6
-- AND THE RADIOS FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WERE ABOUT
A LITTLE OVER A MILLION, A MILLION SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND.

Q. -- YOU'VE JUSTIFIED THE 9 RADIOS AND THE 25 OTHERS AS
SORT OF IN PAYMENT FOR THEIR DRUG-CONTROL MEASURES, BUT
YOU HAVE NO JUSTIFICATION OF THE MUCH LARGER DEAL.

A. THE JUSTIFICATION IS THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN US
-SYRIAN RELATIONS.

Q. BUT THEY WEREN'T USED NECESSARILY TO CATCH NARCOTICS
PEDDLERS, WERE THEY?

A. NO.

Q. WHEN WAS THE SALE?

A. LELL, THEY WERE APPROVED IN JULY AND SEPTEMBER OF 1974.

Q. DELIVERY HAS TAKEN PLACE NOW OR --

A. I ASSUME THEY HAVE ALL BEEN DELIVERED.

A. TURNING TO THE TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING LIBYA, THIS ALSO
IS AN OLD TRANSACTION. AT THE OUTSET, I WOULD LIKE TO
MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE MAKING NO SALES OF LETHAL MILITARY
EQUIPMENT TO LIBYA. THERE WAS AND IS A CONTINUING PRO-
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HIBITION FOR THE SALE OF SUCH LETHAL EQUIPMENT. IN FACT,
CURRENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO REFUSE THE SALE OF
SPARE PARTS FOR U.S.-SUPPLIED F-5 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

Q. FOR F-5?

A. FOR F-5 -- THE U.S.-SUPPLIED F-5 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

WE ALSO CONTINUE TO REFUSE EXPORT PERMISSION FOR 8 C-130
AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE BEEN PAID FOR BY THE LIBYANS.

THIS EMBARGO EXISTS BECAUSE OF THE TOTAL OPPOSITION OF THE
LIBYAN GOVERNMENT TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE
EAST. AND WE HAVE MADE THIS CLEAR TO THE LIBYAN GOVERN-
MENT.

AS FOR THE SALES THAT WERE MADE IN SEPTEMBER -- OR THAT
WERE APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER OF '74, EIGHT MONTHS AGO --
THEY CONSISTED OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, 75 SPEECH
SCRAMBLERS, WHICH WERE SUPPLIED TO LIBYA FOR AN AUTHORIZED
NON-MILITARY END USER: THE MINISTRY OF POST AND TELECOM-
MUNICATIONS.

Q. WHAT'S THE VALUE OF THAT?

A. \$137,600.

THE SECOND ITEM WERE 500 OBSOLETE -- BY U.S. STANDARDS --
MINE DETECTORS.

Q. 500?

A. 500 MINE DETECTORS -- OBSOLETE BY U.S. STANDARDS --
WHICH WERE SUPPLIED FOR USE IN THE DETECTION OF WORLD WAR
II MINES IN DESERT AREAS NOW BEING EXPLORED FOR PETROLEUM.
THE VALUE OF THAT WAS 470.9 THOUSAND DOLLARS.

THE THIRD ITEM IS THE SALE OF 1.1 MILLION DOLLARS IN C-130
SPARES AND REPAIRS TO THESE AIRCRAFT AS NECESSARY -- PLUS
\$866,000 FOR 4 NEW ENGINES FOR C-130'S.

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THESE ITEMS WERE APPROVED BECAUSE BOTH THE LOCKHEED AIR-
CRAFT CORPORATION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA INFORMED US
THERE WAS A CLEAR FLYING SAFETY DANGER TO THE AIRCRAFT AND
OPERATING PERSONNEL, WHO ON OCCASION ARE AMERICAN EMPLOYEES
OF THE LOCKHEED CONTRACT TEAM IN LIBYA. IT WAS BECAUSE OF
THIS FLYING SAFETY DANGER THAT THESE TRANSACTIONS WERE
AUTHORIZED.

Q. WHAT AGENCY OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT WAS GIVEN THE
C-130 SPARE PARTS?

A. I ASSUME IT IS THE LIBYAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

I WANT TO MAKE ONE FINAL COMMENT: THE APPROVAL OF THESE
TRANSACTIONS WAS GRANTED FOLLOWING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
AT THE POLICY LEVEL OF THE DEPARTMENT.

Q. WHEN WERE THESE LIBYAN -- WHEN WAS APPROVAL GRANTED?

A. THE SPEECH SCRAMBLERS AND THE MINE DETECTORS IN
SEPTEMBER, 1974 AND THE AIRCRAFT SPARES IN NOVEMBER OF
1974.

Q. ARE THERE ANY SUCH TRANSACTIONS -- WERE THERE ANY THIS
YEAR, OR ARE THERE ANY IN CONTEMPLATION?

A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q. UNLESS I MISUNDERSTOOD YOU, WHEN YOU STARTED OUT ON
THE LIBYAN THING DID YOU SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES
REFUSES TO EXPORT PARTS FOR F-5 AIRCRAFT AND THE 8 C-130

AIRCRAFT?

A. RIGHT.

Q. WELL THEN, ARE THESE OTHER C-130 AIRCRAFT SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT AT THE OUTSET?

A. THEY PAID FOR 8 NEW AIRCRAFT, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DELIVERED. WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT ARE 4 ENGINES FOR C-130'S THAT ARE ALREADY IN THEIR INVENTORY.
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Q. JUST FOUR?

A. C-130'S ENGINES YES, SIR.

Q. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SELLING THEM NEW ONES AND THEN PUTTING THEIR OLD ONES IN THE SHAPE TO FLY AS IF THEY WERE NEW?

A. THE REASON IS BECAUSE OF THE FLYING SAFETY DANGER.

Q. TO WHOM?

A. TO THE LIBYANS AND TO THE LOCKHEED CONTRACT TEAM.

Q. WHAT ARE THOSE PLANES USED FOR BY LIBYA -- TO CARRY TROOPS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT?

A. I ASSUME SO.

Q. I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SELLING THEM NEW ONES OR BOYCOTTING THE SALE OF NEW ONES AND MAKING THE OLD ONES WHOLE SO THEY'RE THE SAME AS NEW.

A. THE REASON --

Q. WHY NOT SELL THEM THE NEW ONES TOO?

Q. THEY'RE EVEN SAFER.

A. THE REASON FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE TRANSACTION IS AS STATED.

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT MR. ASPIN IS WRONG WHEN HE THINKS IT WAS WRONG TO SELL THESE PARTS TO RADICAL ARAB REGIMES?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON MR. ASPIN'S POSITION. OBVIOUSLY, WE DID NOT THINK IT WAS WRONG OR WE WOULD NOT HAVE APPROVED THEM.

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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S STATEMENT DESIRING SOME KIND OF FACE-TO-FACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIANS?

A. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY INFORMED US YESTERDAY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS MEANING SOMETHING NEW. THEY STATED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. AND THE ISRAELI EMBASSY SAID THAT WHAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS IN MIND IS WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES IN WORKING OUT IMPLEMENTING DETAILS OF PREVIOUS DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE KILOMETER 101 TALKS?

A. YES, PRECISELY.

Q. DID THEY USE THAT AS AN EXAMPLE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY DID EXPLICITLY BECAUSE I WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE CONVERSATION, BUT I AM SURE THAT THAT IS WHAT THEY WERE REFERRING TO.

Q. THE SECRETARY YESTERDAY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SEE AMBASSADOR DINITZ, POSSIBLY BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR HELSINKI -- ON THAT TRIP. WILL THAT BE WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS THEN, OR WOULD IT HAVE TO BE --

A. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SOONER THAN THAT BECAUSE THEY ARE LEAVING SATURDAY MORNING.

Q. REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY SAYS, IT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS NEW OR NOT, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT REGARD IT AS NEW?

A. WE ACCEPT THE ISRAELI INTERPRETATION OF IT.

Q. DID YOU HAVE IT ENVISIONED BEFORE THIS THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH FACE-TO-FACE TALKS TO WORK OUT THE FINAL DETAILS OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT?

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A. I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION DIRECTLY. I HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT I WOULD SAY THAT THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN SUBSTANCE, SO I DO NOT THINK WE WERE SURPRISED BY IT.

Q. HAS THE ISRAELI EMBASSY CLARIFICATION BEEN CONVEYED TO THE EGYPTIANS?

A. YES.

Q. BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. YES.

Q. HOW WAS THAT DONE?

A. THROUGH AMBASSADOR EILTS.

Q. WELL, WHETHER IT WAS NEW OR NOT, DO WE SHARE THEIR VIEW THAT WHEN IT GETS TO THAT POINT THE DETAILS -- THE HUNDRED OR SO DETAILS -- WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT FACE-TO-FACE?

A. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY -- THE NUMERICAL QUANTITY OF THE DETAILS.

Q. WELL, LEAVING OUT THE QUANTITY.

A. IT WAS DONE IN THE PAST. IT ALSO WAS DONE -- I BELIEVE THERE WAS AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WORKING GROUP IN GENEVA, AND ALSO AN ISRAELI-SYRIAN WORKING GROUP IN GENEVA.

Q. THAT'S TRUE, BUT DO WE AGREE THAT THIS IS THE WAY IT INEVITABLY WILL HAVE TO BE COMPLETED?

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A. WE DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH IT, NO.

Q. HAS EGYPT HAD A PROBLEM? HAVE THEY COMPLAINED TO THIS GOVERNMENT?

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A. NO.

Q. THEY HAVE NOT?

A. THEY HAVE NOT.

Q. BACK TO RABIN, DO YOU CONSIDER THAT HIS REQUEST IS A PRE-CONDITION TO A SETTLEMENT OR NOT?

A. THEY HAVE SAID THAT IT IS NOTHING NEW; IT HAPPENED IN THE PAST. SO THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THE WAY OF SUBSTANCE.

Q. YES. WHETHER NEW OR NOT, IT MIGHT STILL BE A PRE-CONDITION.

A. A TECHNICAL PRE-CONDITION AS OPPOSED TO A SUBSTANTIVE PRE-CONDITION? I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE A DISTINCTION THAT REALLY NO ONE REGARDS THIS AS HAVING SUBSTANTIVE MEANING.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON JORDAN -- ON THE HAWK MISSILE COMPROMISE?

A. THE VOTE IS TODAY, WE UNDERSTAND.

Q. IS THERE ANY AID OR CREDIT INVOLVED IN THIS SALE TO JORDAN?

A. I BELIEVE THAT IS A CASH SALE. LET ME CHECK ON THE TERMS OF THE SALE. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. THERE ARE REPORTS OUT TODAY AGAIN. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE BASIC OUTLINE OF AN AGREEMENT IS NOW VISIBLE. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO CONFIRM THAT?

A. NO. WE ARE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO STAND ON OUR POSITION OF NOT COMMENTING ON THE SUBSTANCE OR ON THE STATUS OF THE EXCHANGES. WE ARE WORKING VERY HARD. KISSINGER

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